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President Shannon Accepts New Opportunity

Skip Shannon to leave SJC to become President and Headmaster of renowned Massachusetts prep school

by Heather Hagan

In a statement issued at 1:00 p.m. today, it was announced that Saint Joseph's College President Albert Shannon will be leaving the college at the end of the 2000-2001 academic year. James E. Madden, chairman on the Board of Trustees, stated that Shannon has accepted the position of President and Headmaster of St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, MA effective July 1, 2001.

Madden stated that the move to St. John's "is a great opportunity for Skip to further his personal growth and goals in a new, challenging arena." According to Shannon, his desire to accept this new position is a result of his own experiences as a secondary school educator and a graduate of a Catholic prep high school. St. John's Prep enjoys a strong reputation as one of New England's best Catho-

lic, boys' prep schools.

"MJ and I look forward to the challenges at St. John's Prep," Shannon stated. "[It] is the right school in the right place with the right challenges for MJ and I at this point in our careers."

With Shannon's departure comes the task of finding a new President to lead Saint Joseph's College. Madden stated that he will be consulting with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in developing a plan of action in the search for a new President.

"I feel confident that with the continued support of the Vice Presidents in leading the institution and the support and involvement of the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, that the transition will be smooth. Skip has assured me that he will assist in the transition in any way possible."

Shannon came to SJC in 1992 as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 1993, he became the institution's first Catholic, lay president. During his tenure as President, Shannon has doubled the school's endowment and raised \$16 million of the \$48 million the College has raised in its entire history. In addition, it



President Skip Shannon

alone. They were brought about with the help of a competent and accomplished team of faculty and administrators.

However, of all his accomplishments while at SJC, Shannon claimed that he is most pleased with the master plan and strategic planning process that he has overseen. "My fondest memories will be the completion of the \$22 million capital campaign, the opening of the Core Education Center, the new apartment construction and the multiple renovation projects completed on campus," Shannon stated. He went on to add, "I hope to leave SJC a better place than I found it. After all, that is the challenge that I offer each student on campus."

It is with mixed emotions that the Shannon's exit Saint Joseph's College. As the parents of two SJC graduates, the Shannon's have deep ties to the College and the surrounding community.

"Saint Joseph's College will always hold a place in my heart," Shannon said. "The Board entrusted me with the presidency at a critical time in the history of the school. I hope my legacy will be that I responded in a professional, collegial and positive manner for the school."

High school seniors compete for SJC Presidential Scholarship

Competition requirements for prestigious scholarship include interview, on-site essay

by Blaire Henley

The SJC campus was flooded with visitors on February 3 and February 11. While the visitors looked much like the other prospective students who visit campus, these students were not just visiting but competing.

The Presidential Scholarship Com-

petition included 67 students and their families and spanned two weekends. The Presidential Scholarship is the highest academic scholarship awarded by Saint Joseph's College. It is a four-year, full-tuition/room and board scholarship. Each Presidential Scholarship candidate submitted an application, letters of recommendation, and either SAT or ACT test

scores. Over 100 applications were received and from that 100, 67 students were invited to the on-campus portion of the competition.

Director of Admissions Frank Bevec said that the biggest advantage of the competition for the candidates is that "they get to see the campus firsthand and the people who make up the community." Obviously, for the three students who win the Presidential Scholarship, another advantage is the free tuition, room, and board.

The competition consists of an interview with two faculty members and a timed essay on a predetermined topic. According to Erin Sheehan, a candidate from Jacksonville, IL, the scariest part of the process was "sitting there waiting to go in the interview." Erin survived her interview and said her impression of Saint Joseph's College now was excellent. "I liked the way the campus is spread out. I thought the professors were really nice."

Current Presidential Scholars attempt to make the experience easier for candidates by relating their own battle with nerves during their competition. When asked which portion of the competition had made her nervous, Tina Carroll re-



PROVOST DAVID CHATTIN awards a presidential scholarship candidate with the Honors Scholarship. Each student who qualified for the on-campus portion of the competition received either the Honors, SJC or Deans Scholarship. Photo by Heather Hagan

In this Issue . . .

News..... 1&3

- Ashley Cox visits Cup o' Joe
- The Napster decision

Opinion..... 2

- How can we fix America?
- In Defense of Generation Y

Features..... 4&5

- Puma Profile: Joey Tartell
- Movie review: 'Traffic'

Sports..... 6&7

- Men's Basketball update
- Indoor track team's triumph

EtCetera..... 8

- Entertainment Quick Picks
- Puma poetry

Fixing America

by Luke Hansen

As we embark on our journey into the twenty-first century, America is speeding down the information superhighway. However, my research indicates that we have crossed the yellow line and are swerving through oncoming traffic.

Our culture values quick-fix ideas and short-term solutions. It seems more important to make life more comfortable for ourselves than to worry about tomorrow's potential dilemmas. Is this philosophy for the betterment of future generations?

While our culture has been misguided, this ideology has slowly leaked into our political system. Our wonderful and prosperous nation faces serious issues every day in Washington D.C., but nothing has been accomplished.

Three such issues are abortion, gun control, and the death penalty. Good people disagree on these issues, but no one can view our current direction as an acceptable way of managing our society. Current legislation has not halted the havoc wreaked by disagreement over these issues. Therefore, we need to attack them from a different, uncommon perspective.

The majority of Americans favor a woman's right to choose. However, we can certainly work towards valuing life and limiting the extraordinary number of abortions. Women that encounter unwanted pregnancies face difficult circumstances. Many feel shame for becoming pregnant too early in their lives. Too many people regard young children as prohibitive and stressful. With motivated politicians and innovative mindsets, however, we can find solutions to these problems. We need more support clinics for women, along with a cultural movement that celebrates life.

The National Rifle Association always finds itself in the hot seat when a tragic shooting occurs in America. Many people disregard the valuable programs that are sponsored by the NRA. Eddie Eagle is one youth safety program, while Refuse To Be A Victim teaches simple, commonsense self-defense tactics. Education is the key to fighting the number of tragic deaths in America, not restricting the right of law-abiding citizens to possess guns for hunting or self-defense.

The death penalty, outlawed in most of Europe, Canada, Australia, and most other countries in the world, is still practiced in almost forty states. The United States views capital punishment as a quick-fix solution to a long-term problem. Americans have failed to overcome the human obsession to practice retribution. Is state-sanctioned revenge a noble act? Some violent criminals could be rehabilitated, but people would not dare put effort into helping these individuals. We need to reach out to our fellow citizens, no matter what their situation in life.

America is not improving itself. Therefore, we should feel a collective responsibility to find alternative solutions to our most horrific evils.

Out To Lunch

by Mandy Meyers

I have a slight problem. Why must everything on this campus shut down between the hours of 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.? Is there a reason for this? Logically, this is when many people go to lunch, which I understand. However does anyone realize this is one of the only times students are free during the day to run errands on campus? It is quite frustrating trying to accomplish any sort of task in McHale or the post office because ev-

eryone has gone out to lunch.

I know that people want to eat with their friends and co-workers, but if you have not noticed, the whole student body does not go to lunch together. We go in shifts. Most people go to lunch in the café at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. I think that lunch shifts may be in order for everyone else on this campus, not just students. So half of the office staff can go at 11 a.m., then the other half at 12 p.m.. It is a simple solution to an annoying problem.

Slackers we are not...

by Blaire Henley

I would like to offer some praise to a rather maligned generation. I would like to applaud Generation Y. That's right, I didn't say Generation X because the term Generation Y more accurately captures our generation's desire to question everything. So, instead of being a group of apathetic loafers we are really a group of inquisitive workers.

First things first, I'd like to first poke some fun at the very term Generation X. The generations that have branded us with such a stigma claim our generation is nothing but a bunch of unappreciative little devils; this same generation loves the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child." So my question is this: if we are all a bunch of unappreciative little devils and it was their job to raise us, why exactly hasn't their generation earned a stigma for abject failure?

Secondly, I find it incredibly frustrating that our generation's attempt to understand the reasons for many of our culture's beliefs and traditions has been viewed not as an attempt to better ourselves but as a concentrated attempt to bring society to its knees. A church group I was involved with dubbed our generation, the "Why?" generation. I can't help but agree that our generation is full of people who choose to question and examine beliefs prior to adopting them. I also happen to believe that our tendency to decide for ourselves instead of accepting a practice that very well may be inappropriate is our most incredible feature. Members of generation Y tend to participate in a lot of self-examination before adopting a value system. While some would view our examination as procrastination, at least members of our generation know WHY they hold a belief. Rather than being unable to explain their belief system our generation can offer concrete reasons as to why we've adopted the lifestyle we have. When our children ask why, our generation will have answers. For those who still doubt, I offer this example. My generation is by far more accepting of racial and religious differences than any generation before. When women are denied upper management positions, it is my generation demanding an explanation for such a ridiculous decision. When qualified minority students or employees are de-

nied benefits, it is my generation that points to the fallacy of such thinking. I know that many older Americans are convinced that our generation cares about nothing at all, when in reality we care so much that we demand we have enough information and make an informed decision.

I know some adults shake their heads at our entire generation as if it were a group of degenerates. I can offer some refutation for that misconception. I was a freshman leader last semester and had the opportunity to meet members of the incoming class who represented a wide variety of interests and personalities. The members of my group were thoughtful and talented. I noticed on more than one occasion some of the more outgoing members trying to divert the spotlight to more introverted classmates. Some of the freshman even turned the tables on me and didn't just let me help them, but they checked up on me throughout the semester to see if I needed anything. Some of the freshman in my group became my friends and they have from day one shown interest in my life, just as I was asked to take an interest in theirs. I know some of the faculty and administration have grown frustrated with the academic climate on campus. I will agree that some students fail to grasp the importance of a college education, but I will not agree that the vast majority of students are members of a generation that is dragging them down to a place where chaos reigns and morals are pieces of the past. Instead, I would challenge our faculty and administration to take note of those students, and there are many, who are participating. Note these people and know they are not exceptions to the rule, but rather a glimpse of the student body here at Saint Joe.

In conclusion, I'd just like to say that I'm as passionate as I am young. I respect and love my parents, I would die to protect my brother and sister, and my religious beliefs were not inherited from my parents but are instead a product of my own decision to follow Jesus Christ. So to the people who would like to stigmatize the entire generation to which I belong, I would challenge you to go ahead. But be prepared to encounter not an apathetic, lazy set of underachievers but an impassioned, intelligent, and forceful group of young people.

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Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor are not only accepted but greatly encouraged. The opinion page is a forum for student issues and should have student opinions. Letters may be sent to Mandy Meyers, Heather Hagan or placed in the Observer mailboxes, located on 2nd floor Core or 3rd floor Haleck Center. Letters should be between 350 and 500 words. The Observer reserves the right to edit length. Pseudonyms are accepted but discouraged. Regardless, all submissions should be signed and include a valid telephone number. The Observer also reserves the right not to print letters found to violate applicable policies.

Free the Onions!

Dear Editor,

"Where's the onion?" Hey, it's in the dining hall! Find it! Food service is always shopping around to get the best deal on items, just like students do (read the article on books above the onion article in the February 1 issue). We got a great deal on onion bread, I mean onion rings. It was a coincidence we served "true onion rings" on a recruiting day. Was it a strange reason this happened? No way, Jose! This is our new and improved onion ring! Recruits, faculty and staff eat what you eat. We have recruits come almost every day of the spring semester. They eat the same thing you eat. So eat more onion bread, I mean onion rings! But watch out - we got a great deal on Canadian oranges this month.

Free the onions!

Sincerely,
Steve Santo

A little night music...

Singer Ashley Cox Brings Her Talent to Cup O' Joe

by Katie Davet

On Monday, February 5, a group of approximately thirteen people gathered at Cup O Joe to hear the music of Ashley Cox. The event began at 8 p.m., and was a fun-filled night of lovely music. The event was sponsored by the Student Union Board (SUB).

Cox has been playing the guitar for six years and is from Syracuse, New York. She has traveled to many places including Buffalo, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; Albany, New York; Louisiana and Boston. She has visited other colleges besides St. Joe, including Bucknell University, University of Akron, Syracuse University, Gannon University and others. She plans to travel internationally in the near future. "Anywhere I can get, I will go," she stated.

Cox has also started her own record company. "I learned by making a record deal that I did not need it to go out and perform for people," she stated. The up-

coming places where she will be performing include Fayetteville, Syracuse and Cleveland. She also plays in sports bars, but she prefers not to play in them too often.

Cox performed a variety of songs. She has a CD out right now called *Ashley Cox: As Above, So Below*. She performed some of the songs off her CD including, "East of Eden", "Accidents Happen", "...In a Month" and "Stupid Newlyweds." She also performed Sheryl Crow's famous song; "Everyday is a Winding Road."

Overall, it turned out to be an enjoyable and entertaining night for all who attended. If you want to find out more information about Cox, you can visit her website www.ashleycoxmusic.com. Becki Hemingway will be the next coffeehouse performer. She will make her appearance on March 22. This event is open to all students and faculty on campus.

Computer Training Classes Being Offered

by Maia Kingman

Saint Joseph's College and Kankakee Valley Workforce have formed a partnership in order to research the computer training interests and needs of adults. SJC and KV Workforce will work with focus groups consisting of adults who have interest in training and wish to help guide the development of class curriculum. Those interested may attend one of three sessions to be held at SJC on February 8th at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Topics for discussion could include entry level computer training, programs, Internet usage and other functional areas such as building a Family Tree. Those interested are encouraged to contact Steve McAleer at 219-866-9071.

Governor O'Bannon proclaims February Financial Aid Awareness Month

by Patt McCafferty
ISFAA Media Committee Director

On January 16th, 2001, Governor Frank O'Bannon proclaimed February 2001 as Financial Aid Awareness Month. Hoosier families, like all across the nation, are extremely concerned about the cost of education and The Indiana Student Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) and the State of Indiana are committed to connecting Hoosier families to resources that will make attending college possible.

ISFAA and the State of Indiana will conduct outreach activities that will help parents and students find answers to challenging questions about costs and financial aid. The highlight of ISFAA's public awareness campaign was College Goal Sunday, a statewide financial aid filing workshop effort held on Sunday, February 11. College Goal Sunday was held at 35 different location sites across Indiana. In addition, the Indiana Career



and Postsecondary Advancement Center (ICPAC) will assist ISFAA in making available college financial aid counselors through ICPAC's phone hotline throughout the month of February. Students and families are encouraged to call toll-free 1-800-992-2076 to ask questions about financial aid.

ISFAA and the State of Indiana believe by increasing public knowledge of college costs and financial aid availability through events such as Financial Aid Awareness Month and College Goal Sunday, more Hoosiers will be able to make their dreams of attending college a reality.

For additional information visit the following Web sites:
www.isfaa.org
www.collegegoalsunday.org
icpac.indiana.edu

A Night of Mystery with the Carnegie Players

by Mandy Meyers

The Carnegie Players, a community theatre group in Rensselaer, will be presenting the play "Mousetrap" this week.

The play is a murder mystery, set in the winter of 1952, in which everyone in the cast is a suspect. The cast is made up of people from Rensselaer and the surrounding communities. However, two St. Joe students are also involved in this production. Freshmen Dannielle Pruett and

Mark Brouwer are excited to be featured in "Mousetrap." In addition, SJC Professor Robert Garrity, a longtime Carnegie Players member, serves as the play's director.

The play will be performed February 15, 16, and 17 at 7:30 PM in the large lecture hall at Rensselaer Central High School. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. "This play is definitely going to be one you won't want to miss. It is very suspenseful and leaves you wondering 'who done it,'" Pruett says.

National News:

Court Rules Against Napster

by Ron Harris
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Napster must stop allowing the millions of music fans who use its free Internet-based service to share copyrighted material, a federal appeals court ruled on February 12th. The three-judge panel allowed Napster to remain in business but told a lower court judge to rewrite her injunction that ordered Napster to shut down pending a trial in a lawsuit filed by the recording industry. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also said Napster must prevent users from gaining access to content on its search index that could potentially infringe copyrights.

"This is a clear victory," said Hillary Rosen, president and CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America.

"The court of appeals found that the injunction is not only warranted, but required. And

it ruled in our favor on every legal issue presented." Redwood City-based Napster can stay in business until U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel retools her injunction, which the appellate court's 58-page opinion called overbroad. In fact, minutes after the panel's decision, thousands of Napster users were still trading music files on just one of the company's more than 100 servers.

In a statement, Napster said it was "disappointed" by the ruling and that it would appeal. "We look forward to getting more facts into the record. We will pursue every avenue in the courts and the Congress to keep Napster operating." The judges said it was apparent that "Napster has knowledge, both actual and constructive, of direct infringement," adding that the recording industry "would likely prevail" in its suit against the file-swapping service.

"We, therefore, conclude that the district court made sound findings related to Napster's deleterious effect on

the present and future digital download market," the appeals court ruled. "Having digital downloads available for free on the Napster system necessarily harms the copyright holders' attempts to charge for the same downloads."

Napster argued that it was not to blame for its subscribers' use of copyrighted material, citing the Sony Betamax decision of 1984, in which the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hold VCR manufacturers and videotape retailers liable for people copying movies. Millions of users had flooded the company's computer servers this past weekend to download free music, fearing an immediate shutdown of the service that has changed the face of music. Napster has an estimated 50 million users.

Major record labels hope today's ruling will force millions of computer users to pay for music the online music swapping service has allowed them to get for free.

If Napster had won, however, the ruling could have given new life to other business ventures that have been waiting for guidance on whether a "personal use" exception to copyright law allows or prohibits trading songs over the Internet.

The digital music technology Napster made popular is here to stay either way. The recording industry appears stymied by the notion of funneling music to consumers via the Internet for a price while freely available computer applications allow even the computer novice to do it for free.

The five largest record labels — Sony, Warner, BMG, EMI and Universal — sued as soon as Napster took off, saying it could rob them of billions of dollars in profits. Since the appellate judges began deliberating in October, Napster has made agreements with former business foes like Bertelsmann AG, the parent company of the BMG music unit. The German media giant has promised much-needed capital if Napster switches to a subscription-based service that pays artists' royalties. The four other major labels were holding out for Napster's demise.

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Puma Profile:

by Mike Potts

If you are a member of the Saint Joseph's College band, or know someone who is, you might have heard them complaining about their uniforms. Aside from the fact that the uniforms were twelve years old, there were simply not enough to go around. However, this year that is no longer the case. The school has added new uniforms. But that's not all that has changed. SJC has also acquired the talents of Joey Tartell, the school's new Assistant Band Director.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Tartell attended the Eastman School of Music in New York, where he received his Bachelor's Degree. From there, Tartell studied at the University of Miami in Florida, where he earned his Masters Degree.

As one might guess, this man is no stranger to big cities; after leaving Miami he moved to Chicago. So, of course, the question is raised: why does he now live in rural Rensselaer? Well, he doesn't. He actually lives in West Lafayette, where his wife teaches two musical groups at Purdue University, *The Purduettes*, an all-girl singing group, and a vocal jazz group.

But still, from all those hustle and bustle cities to Lafayette? Well, being someone who dreads a lot of traffic and likes to get to where he's going, Joey Tartell must be very happy. Compared to Chicago, New York, and San Antonio, he doesn't have to worry too much about traffic here in Northwest Indiana.

It's not just the light traffic he enjoys, but also the small school atmosphere. He also explained, that "a small town is a better place to raise kids." That reason for living in a small community is very important to

Tartell. Perhaps the most important.

Tartell is a passionate person. Aside from his interests in music, he is also a huge sports fan, especially when it comes to basketball. But his biggest passion, he claims, is his daughter. He keeps pictures of his eight-month-old baby daughter, Jamie, on his website so that he doesn't have to send pictures to everyone. Tartell, the proud dad he is, keeps the pictures updated

and forth. However, they have only known each other for a short while. Tartell explained that Theil had heard about him and called him up to ask him to teach courses on trumpet playing. "We only knew each other from me coming to give lessons," Tartell said, but after Theil approached him with the vacant position as the band's assistant director, Tartell accepted. Now Tartell teaches a bit more here at Saint Joseph's College. Along with continuing his trumpet lessons, he also teaches instrumental arranging, jazz band, and symphonic band.

This accomplished trumpeter has been a lot of places, from Texas to New York, from teaching at Saint Joe, to playing with Elvis. That's right, Elvis. If this piques your interest, just think what it did to mine. Tartell did not play with Elvis while he was alive, but rather in a concert reenactment that Presley's estate sponsors. A large screen featuring the late rocker is displayed, while his old band members sit below, accompanying him as in past concerts. Tartell, who has been an extra trumpeter for the shows, explains it as "reverse karaoke."

With everywhere he has been, and everything he has done, I figured it would be hard to pinpoint Tartell's most memorable moment here. He thought a bit and decided that his most

memorable moment was the Christmas concert. With more staff and enough band members with uniforms, Tartell was able to put together a jazz band at the school. Seeing them perform, he said, was his best moment. Over 200 people attended the concert, and as Tartell stated, "It was a great turnout."



SJC's NEW ASSISTANT band director Joey Tartell has settled into his new office space. Photo by Mike Potts

on a regular basis.

If you have been to many of the basketball games this season, you probably have seen Tartell, and SJC Band Director Robb Theil hollering at the referees. One might think that the two have known each other for a long time judging from the way they trade shouts back

Fresh new faces help Office of Admissions achieve its goals

by Susan Huss

We've all dealt with them. They were the people who bombarded us with mail and constant phone calls during our senior year of high school. But the qualities that made them somewhat annoying to us, make them good at their jobs.

The elusive "they", in this case, are the people who work in the Admissions Office, and this year, there are many new faces. Among the novice members of the Admissions team, there are several new area representatives, including Elaine Parrish, Mary Fortman (an SJC class of 2000 alum), Allen Reigel, and Becky Henson. There are also two new administrative assistants, Judy Serocinski and Lisa Gastineau.

Three-year Admissions veteran Margaret Hajduch, Assistant Director of Admissions and the Chicago Area Representative, believes that the new staff will do very well. "Although the Admissions Office has gone through many staff changes within the last year, I think we have a solid group of people who work well as a team," Hajduch said. "I think this staff is by far the most team-oriented group we have seen."

The Admissions Office is responsible for marketing, recruitment, and admission of undergraduate students at St. Joe. According to Frank Bevec, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Director of Admis-

sions, the office is trying new things that will hopefully enhance the admissions process. "We are always testing variations of what we do because we're always trying to enhance the program," Bevec said. "Electronic recruitment has become the novelty over the last few years. This is the first year of an online college fair hosted by the National Association of College Admission Counselors."

Hajduch, who is the first admissions representative from SJC to live in Chicago for many years, said there are other changes in the Admissions Office. "We have made some changes to our telecounseling program over the last year," Hajduch said. "As with something new, we are making adjustments to that program which will allow for optimum use of the telecounselors."

With all these changes in place, the admissions office is looking forward to their next big challenge, the entering Class of 2005, and the staff has its goals firmly in mind. "The primary goal is always to attain our enrollment goals," Bevec said. "In addition, I would like to be able to maintain stability with our current staff. We have an excellent team together, and I would hope to have them all with us for a long time. I would also like to see the Admissions Welcome Center which is part of the Master Facilities Plan come to fruition."



Coming Soon to the SJC Theater...

The sets are not yet down from *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, but the *Columbian Players* have begun work on their next production. The springtime traditionally brings a musical to the SJC stage and this year is no different. The 2001 Spring Musical is *The Roar of the Greasepaint-The Smell of the Crowd*. This British play has been referred to as a metaphor for society, and is consistent with the "social commentary" plays of the 1960's.

This cast is composed of many of SJC's gifted resident actors. Leading the players are Mark Brouwer ('04), Polly Rainey ('02), and Nick Schafer ('03). The show is set to open on the night of March 30th and run through April 1st.

The Players wish to extend an invitation to the entire SJC community to come and enjoy an evening of music, theater, and entertainment.

This Event was Brought to You by SUB

by Melissa Genova

Nearly every student on SJC's campus enjoys the special activities that are made possible by the Student Union Board (SUB), but not everyone knows who and what lies behind the title.

SUB sponsors many events on campus including Big Screen Movies, Cup 'o Joe performers, comedians, hypnotists and other novelty acts. Currently, the board is in the midst of one of their busiest periods of the year: I Hate Winter Week. During this week, SUB sponsors an activity every night, with the week culminating in the annual Suitcase Party.

Last semester, the outgoing board voted and elected Junior Theresa Kreinbrink Chair of the organization and sophomore Kris Dougherty Co-Chair. The board has a head start on a few ideas for school-sponsored events for next year, although the primary focus is on this year. "We're still focusing on this year, but we're always open to suggestions," said Dougherty.

One of the goals that SUB has set is to attract

more students to the events and have more interaction between them.

"We are trying to get the campus more involved by planning a variety of events," explained Kreinbrink. "We also added more people to the board to draw in different groups of people."

Although Kreinbrink and Dougherty have just recently been appointed to their positions, they are already enjoying themselves. They both stated that, "We love what we are doing and we love the people we work with."

So far, Dougherty's best experience has been the planning of events. "I think it's fun being involved with the events that are brought to campus," she said.

Kreinbrink is enjoying the social aspect of SUB and all the different people she gets to work with. "I love working with fun, outgoing people who truly care about getting the students more involved," she said.

The agenda for next year is still in the works, and SUB is open to comments and suggestions for next year's activities.

Don't miss these upcoming SUB events:

Thursday, February 15

Blind Man's Bluff (A Cappella Group)
8 p.m. Ballroom

Friday, February 15

Suitcase Party (Dance)
10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Ballroom

Monday, March 19

Can You Name That Tune? (Gameshow)
8 p.m. Ballroom

Wednesday, March 21

Mike Rayburn (Comedian/Singer)
8 p.m. Outside Core XI

Thursday, March 22

Beki Hemingway (Coffeehouse performer)
8 p.m. Cup 'o Joe

Thursday, April 3

Mark Reedy (Comedian)
8 p.m. Outside Core XI



At the Movies with Don: Soderbergh's 'Traffic' is a Two-and-a-half Hour Pileup

by Dou Shanahan

There are a great many movies throughout movie history that have showcased intriguing true stories and hot-button topics. While these movies are often well-done, they are usually too long or too busy in story. What I am talking about are those two-tape grand epics at the video store. A prime offender of this is Martin Scorsese and his eccentrically epic movies (*Goodfellas*, *Casino*, among others). Some people just can't sit through two tapes and three hours of talking. From a film-making sense, movies like this are a great achievement in smart story-telling. From a performance sense, the actors involved are usually all at the top of their game.

Somewhere in all of this greatness, the lay-person watching a movie like this gets lost trying to remember all of what is going on. First of all, these opus movies are usually too long for us small-bladdered moviegoers. Secondly, there might be too many characters to keep track of and too many stories going on at the same time. While Scorsese films are good examples, some others include the 1999 Big Tobacco whistle-blower *The Insider*, the huge L.A. ensemble drama *Magnolia*, *The Godfather Trilogy*, *Gone With the Wind*, and even *Titanic*. Again, they all may be great films, but just come off as too long and too busy for the average moviegoer.

The latest culprit in this area is *Traffic*, one of the

leading Oscar contenders for this March and winner of the Best Picture accolade by the New York Film Critics. Directed by highly-regarded Steven Soderbergh, the same filmmaker who hit a home run last spring with *Julia Roberts and *Erin Brockovich**, this epic tells multiple facets of the U.S.-Mexico drug trade. This is done

in a mock-documentary film style following three barely connected points of view that each, by themselves, could make for three entirely different movies.

First, on one side of the border, we follow an honest Mexican state policeman Javier Rodriguez, (Benicio Del Toro, a Golden Globe winner for this role) who fights to keep the drug traffic from the American border. With his partner (Jacob Vargas), he gets caught up in the military's brutal task force trying to take down one of the powerful Tijuana cartels. Thinking he's working for the right side, Javier finds out that the military group is actually part of the rival cartel trying to take over all of the area business. Knowing that he'll be killed if he

leaves, Javier's only chance at making things right is to try and talk to the U.S. officers on the other side of the border.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, after a long-running sting, D.E.A. agents Montell Gordan (Don Cheadle) and Ray Castro (Luis Guzman) make out a then-highly respected city businessman (Steven Bauer) to be the city's biggest drug trafficker. In the wake of the arrest, his pregnant wife (Catherine Zeta-Jones) is stunned to

know the true source and front of his fortune. Instead of buckling from the shock, she boldly attempts to take over her husband's cocaine business.

The third set-piece follows Ohio Supreme Court Justice Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas) who is appointed to become the nation's drug "czar," or the President's informant figure on the war against drugs in Washington, D.C. Unknowing of the disorganization and futility of his job and situation, Robert sees a huge task ahead of him that he is not going to let trample him. The biggest problem he encounters is actually at home where he finds out that his 16-year old honor-roll daughter (Erika Christensen) is addicted to crack cocaine.

Each of these three stories has their distinctive settings and subtle connections to the other parts. The Mexican theater of the story is intentionally shot in a blinding yellow hue of sunlight. The Ohio and Washington scenes are washed with a cold blue tint, while the San Diego piece is as clear as a California sunrise. The stories converge slightly as Wakefield is trying the same fight against drugs that Javier faces everyday. Javier's secrecy with the D.E.A. in San Diego across the border from Tijuana brings him into the pending court case that Zeta-Jones' wife is defying.

Like I said before, *Traffic* is a movie that falls under that Scorsese example of overwhelming its audience. Its acting is superb, particularly Del Toro and Christensen, and the story is an outstanding look at something regular citizens probably don't know much about. Overall, though, there's too much of it to keep track of. Each of the stories could have very well been their own movie altogether, despite getting equal time and attention from Soderbergh.

Just as you start caring or understanding one part of the three, the movie jumps to another without warning. This makes *Traffic* too busy and, in the end, under-satisfying as each part concludes open-ended. If you're a film connoisseur and choose to watch *Traffic* for the good acting and story, you better have an empty mind and an empty bladder. If you can't handle that, go down the hall and be dazzled by *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.



Men's Basketball Update:

Pumas Beat Ranked NKU Norseman Second Time

by Don Shanahan

When *The Observer* last caught the Puma men's basketball team, they were just coming back to form from a great deal of key injuries and departures. Despite the setbacks, the team was on a hot streak of winning six of their last ten, including a big home win over then #4 in the nation Northern Kentucky and a thrilling double-overtime barnburner victory up at Lewis.

Judging by their play these last two weeks, the days of worrying about a thin bench are over. Even with healthy big men Jake Argenta, Seth Perigo, and Brad Ferland, back, Coach Dave Balza and his crew have found a niche, a groove of sorts, that works in their three guard/two forward lineup.

What was once a fill-in personnel set-up has become a secret weapon of sorts for the Pumas. The team has found a way to really spread the ball out, resulting in four and sometimes five or six players in double-digit points by the end of the night. While the rebounding game is tough, the Pumas make up for it in their uncanny ability to create and come up with turnovers. From swiping steals to loose-ball dives, speedy guards Jamie Holden, Marlin Murphy, and Hodges Smith have given opposing shooters more headaches than points during the heart of the season.

From their play in the last few weeks, one can call those days of struggling with eight guys a distant memory. You can now call it achieving instead of struggling. Call them over-achievers if you dare, but Coach Balza has the Pumas in fifth place in the GLVC, a great perch considering the youth of the team and the three nationally ranked teams in the conference (Southern Indiana, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Northern Kentucky).

If you go back to the win against Quincy on January 20th, the Pumas have won five of their last seven as of February 12th. After the exciting and successful Wisconsin-Parkside/Lewis weekend from last issue, the Pumas returned home for a two-game set of two teams

IN FRONT OF a boisterous Richard F. Sharp Alumni Fieldhouse crowd, point guard Marlin Murphy dishes a sharp pass around the outside arc to fellow freshman Greg Muller, who hopes to setup for a quick three-pointer against SIU-Edwardsville.
Photo by Don Shanahan

on different ends of the spectrum. First up was Southern Indiana, the then #2 team in the nation, while SIU-Edwardsville, the last place team in the conference, was the Saturday finisher.

While the team was riding a tremendous high from their double-overtime win over Lewis, they found they were no match for the powerful Southern Indiana squad, losing steeply 109-83. Balza and his assistants, Ken Carrillo and Chris Highfield, did get strong performances from some players. Brandon Yates led the effort with a game-high 23 points. Brent Mason and Jamie Holden followed with 14 points a piece, while Hodges Smith tallied 12.

Two days later, the team welcomed a new opponent is SIU-Edwardsville. Despite its last place record, the team played strong and kept the Pumas very much on their toes throughout the whole game. The team definitely dodged a bullet when they came away with a slim 83-81 win in front of the hometown crowd.

In the win, the Pumas were led by Brent Mason's 18 points. Greg Muller and Brandon Yates also had a solid game in the win, each contributing 16 points of their own. At



the guard positions, Jamie Holden scored 13 points and dished out nine assists, Hodges Smith scored 10 points, and Marlin Murphy nabbed four steals.

Since the two-game homestand, the Pumas have been in the midst of their final road-game weekends of the season. The two games to make this articles deadline came from February 8th at Northern Kentucky and February 10th at the University of Indianapolis.

The emotions and anticipation of the first game made everyone forget about the squeak-by victory over SIU-Edwardsville. The opponent was the Norseman of Northern Kentucky University, a team representing a most vivid and exciting memory for Puma basketball.

Back on January 13th, the then-short-handed Pumas defeated the Norseman 83-79 at home. What made the win all the more astounding was the fact that NKU was then ranked as the #4 school in the country for NCAA Division II. What looked like an insurmountable task at the time became arguably the biggest win of the Balza tenure at SJC.

Three weeks later and now on the road at their place, the rematch against the Norseman, who were now ranked #7 in the nation, was set.

You didn't have to be there to know the intensity of both teams going into the game. The Pumas knew that they had beaten them before and could do it again, even on the road. The Norseman knew they had to avenge their crushing upset and keep their 25-home-game winning streak going.

In even more decisive fashion than before, the Pumas showed that they literally owned the Norseman. With a schooling and "sha-lacking" 101-82 final score, the Pumas proved their first win against them was not a fluke. They downright had NKU's number and then some.

Just as in the Pumas' first win over the Norseman when Jamie Holden became as much of a scorer as he was a passer, somebody stepped up their game and gave the team the edge they needed.

That edge was the outstanding play and prolific scoring of junior Brent Mason. With a double-double (his third of the season), Brent scored 34 points, a game and GLVC career high, while also cleaning the board for 12 rebounds.

He wasn't the only Puma who brought

the scoring wood to the Norseman. Brandon Yates, Marlin Murphy, and Hodges Smith all added 17 points each behind Mason. Yates, too, completed a double-double with his 11 strong rebounds in the post.

The second upset win over ranked Northern Kentucky was the Pumas' first win away at NKU since the 1990-1991 season, when most of the current players were in grammar school. The win was also sweet in the fact that it snapped NKU's streak of 25 straight home wins.

Riding the wave of the rematch win, the Pumas could not make it two in a row in their next game against the University of Indianapolis. The 75-88 loss brought Pumas' record down to 13-11 overall and a sub-.500 7-8 in the GLVC. In the losing effort, guards Jamie Holden and Hodges Smith both came away with 15 points each.

One positive thing that came at the end of the weekend after the Indianapolis loss was that Brent Mason was honored as the GLVC Men's Basketball Player of the Week for the second time in three weeks. Between Mason's double honor and Marlin Murphy's acknowledgement earlier in the season, the Pumas have three Player of the Week titles this season.

Padded greatly by his awesome 34 point-12 rebound double-double against #7 NKU, Mason averaged 24 points and 16 rebounds for the week in which he was honored. The scoring surge has also elevated Mason to 19th on the SJC men's career scoring list.

As of February 12th, the Pumas 7-8 GLVC record has them tied for fifth place in the conference with the University of Indianapolis and ahead of a three way tie for seventh place between Missouri-St. Louis, Wisconsin-Parkside, and Lewis who all have 6-9 records. Just above the Pumas two games up in fourth place is 9-6 Bellarmine.

The five remaining opponents for the Pumas are all behind them in the GLVC standings. With only five games left in the regular season, it becomes important for the Pumas to maintain their winning composure.

The eight top teams go on to the GLVC tournament. Three of the team's final five games are against all of those teams locked in that seventh place tie. Just one loss or win could change the fate of any of those teams, including the Pumas, and also the whole scenario of the standings.

Crunch time is definitely here!



FRESHMAN GUARD JAMIE Holden streaks through a host of SIU-Edwardsville post players for a smooth lay-up, making up two of his thirteen points in the 83-81 Puma win. Holden has been one of many young and dominant surprises on this year's team that has Puma fans optimistic for a bright future for the men's basketball program.
Photo by Don Shanahan

Indoor Track Teams Having Sensational Season

With one meet to go before the GLVC meet and two remaining to qualify for nationals, the SJC track teams have risen to nationally-ranked heights. Here are the season's top performers:

Purdue Open

(at Purdue University)

Top Ten Finishers

Aaron Thomas—4th 35 lb. weight throw
 James Perkins—5th 400m
 Tim Newman—5th mile
 Josh Hughes—6th high jump
 Joe Koczan—6th shot put
 Joe Koczan—6th 35 lb. weight throw
 Jeff Barker—7th 5,000m
 Men's 4x400m—9th
 Greg Myers—9th high jump
 Josh Hughes—9th long jump

Stan Lyons Open

(at Butler University)

MEN

Top Ten Finishers

Joe Koczan—1st shot put
 Aaron Thomas—2nd 35 lb. weight throw
Josh Hughes—3rd high jump (6'8") good for national qualification
 Aaron Thomas—4th shot put
 Tim Newman—5th mile
 Joe Koczan—5th 35 lb. weight throw
 Greg Myers—5th high jump
 Josh Hughes—7th long jump
 James Perkins—8th 400m
 Jeff Barker—9th 3,000m

WOMEN

Top Ten Finishers

Sarah Garman—5th shot put
 Kim Noon—6th weight throw
 Kelli Deckard—8th shot put
 Kelli Deckard—9th weight throw
 Lyndi Cruikshank—9th triple jump

GVSU Open

(at Grand Valley State University)

MEN

Top Ten Finishers

Greg Myers—1st high jump
 Joe Koczan—2nd shot put
 Aaron Thomas—2nd 35 lb. weight throw
 Greg Myers—3rd triple jump
 Joe Koczan—3rd 35 lb. weight throw (52'6 1/3" good for national qualification)
 Men's 4x400m relay—4th
 James Perkins—4th 200m
 Justin Evans—4th 55 m high hurdles
 Josh Hughes—4th high jump
 Josh Hughes—4th long jump
 Rickey McCray—6th 55m
 Jason Johnson—6th 55m high hurdles
 Jason Johnson—6th long jump

WOMEN

Top Ten Finishers

Alexis Virtue—2nd mile
 Sarah Flory—3rd 5,000m
 Sarah Garman—3rd shot put
 Jaymi Hartzler—4th 3,000m
 Melissa Kleinmaus—5th 400m
 Lyndi Cruikshank—5th triple jump
 Becca Nizolek—6th 55m
 Melissa Kleinmaus—6th high jump
 Maria Toledo—6th mile
 Women's 4x400m relay—6th
 Kelli Deckard—6th weight throw

The SJC Puma indoor track teams are coached by:

Bill Massoels

UTSCA Team Challenge

(at Saginaw Valley State University)

MEN (as a team, placed fourth out of six teams)

Top Ten Finishers
 Joe Koczan—1st shot put (54' 4") good for national qualification)
 Tim Newman—3rd mile
 Men's 4x400m relay—3rd
 Justin Evans—3rd 60m high hurdles
 Greg Myers—3rd high jump
 Rickey McCray—4th 60m
 Jeff Barker—4th 5,000m
 Jason Johnson—4th 60m high hurdles
 Jason Johnson—4th long jump
 Greg Myers—4th triple jump
 Josh Hughes—5th long jump
 Rickey McCray—6th 200m
 Joe Koczan—6th 35 lb. weight throw
 Joe Graves—6th pole vault
 Adam Smith—10th 400m
 Dan Westphal—10th 5,000m

WOMEN (as a team, placed fifth out of six teams)

Top Ten Finishers
 Jaymi Hartzler—1st mile
 Melissa Kleinmaus—1st triple jump
 Nancy Giovingo—2nd high jump
 Melissa Kleinmaus—4th 400m
 Alexis Virtue—4th 5,000m
 Maria Toledo—5th 5,000m
 Darci Ramirez—5th 3000m
 Women's 4x400m relay—5th
 Dani Ramirez—6th 3000m
 Kim Noon—6th weight throw
 Sarah Garman—6th shot put
 Sarah Flory—7th 3,000m
 Lyndi Cruikshank—7th triple jump
 Kelli Deckard—7th weight throw
 Teresa Gaura—8th 800m
 Lyndi Cruikshank—8th long jump
 Kelli Deckard—8th shot put

Titan Open at Illinois Wesleyan University

MEN Top Ten Finishers

Joe Koczan—1st shot put
 Aaron Thomas—1st 35 lb. weight throw
 Joe Koczan—2nd 35 lb. weight throw
 Josh Hughes—3rd high jump
 Tim Newman—4th 800m
 Josh Hughes—4th long jump
 Men's 4x400m—5th
 Rickey McCray—6th 55m
 Dan Westphal—7th 1500m
 Kevin Moeller—7th 5000m
 Men's Distance—7th
 Greg Myers—7th high jump
 Men's 4x200m—8th
 Andy Cool—8th shot put
 Jeremy Freel—8th 35 lb. weight throw
 Greg Myers—9th triple jump
 Jeff Barker—10th 1500m

WOMEN Top Ten Finishers

Sarah Garman—1st shot put
 Kim Noon—4th weight throw
 Melissa Kleinmaus—4th 400m
 Alexis Virtue—4th 1500m
 Women's 4x400m Relay—4th
 Kelli Deckard—5th shot put
 Maria Toledo—7th 1500m
 Sarah Garman—7th weight throw
 Sarah Flory—8th 5000m
 Lyndi Cruikshank—8th long jump
 Kelli Deckard—8th weight throw
 Jaymi Hartzler—9th 800m
 Lyndi Cruikshank—9th triple jump

As of 2/12/01

The men's team was ranked 11th in the nation while the women's team was ranked 15th!

Sports Editorial

THE INSIDE CORNER

A Special Valentine's Edition

by Erik Steffen

Welcome to the Valentine's edition of *The Inside Corner*. I've done some crazy things for my special someone on Valentine's Days of the past, but this year I think I'm going to be a bit more traditional, and get her something she needs — after all, she's given me so much. Rick Reilly gave his wife an entire back-page column in *Sports Illustrated*, but a few people on *The Observer* staff thought it might be a little weird to write an entire column about my computer — so spend Valentines Day with your sweetheart. I know I will.

I've been talking to a few people around campus and I realized a few more people read this column than I originally thought, so I thought it necessary to introduce myself. I'm a punk freshman pitcher for the baseball team. If

you're ever in the rec in the afternoons during the orgy of athletic teams, I'm the tall baseball player who looks like he's lost. Usually you'll hear a loud "Do it again!" around me — or after I write this column, a bunch of people laughing at me for talking about my computer in a Valentine's Day column.

The Baseball season should be just starting in Alabama right about now. The way things are going, it's going to be without me. See, I have this problem. If any of you have ever seen *Major League 2*, they have this catcher, Rube, who has a cannon (colloquial baseball term meaning a very strong arm) and can put the ball on a line to second base. However, he can't throw it back to the pitcher if his life depended on it. I have a similar problem — I can't throw the ball to first.

One thing for sure, if baseball doesn't work out, I'll have a future on the cross-country team with all the running they make pitchers do. In high school, especially as a baseball player, we didn't do all that much running, and I thought a mile was enough to make me want to take a trip to the boys room. Now I scoff at a three and a half mile run in the snow, at dusk, on the wrong side of the road. Actually, they don't make us run on the wrong side of the road, but I usually end up there, just because I stop paying attention.

I'll wrap up this column by apologizing. I'm sure you got nothing out of it, maybe a laugh, maybe a weird look, or maybe you didn't get this far. So let me commend you if you did. Now excuse me, I have to go "study" a *Playboy*, so I can throw the ball back to first on a comebacker.

UPCOMING SJC SPORTING EVENTS

February 15

Women's and Men's Basketball at Quincy U.

February 16

Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Teams at Chicagoland Championships

February 17

Baseball at Montevallo, AL
 Women's and Men's Basketball at Missouri-St. Louis

February 18

Baseball at Alabama-Huntsville

February 22

Women's and Men's Basketball HOME vs. Lewis U.

For All You Lefties Out There...

- All polar bears are left handed.
- Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon with his left foot.
- Lefties are thought to be psychic in some places.
- Lefties were once thought to live 7 years longer than righties.
- People make webpages and books for lefties, and, well, how many webpages and books do you know of that are made for righties?
- Many, many of the most famous artists were left-handed.
- There is a National Lefty Day, August 13th.
- There are more than 500 million left-handed people on the planet.
- In 1977, a 13-year-old kid found a tooth growing out of his left foot
- When he was young, left-handed painter Pablo Picasso was so ob-

- sessed with painting that he learned to paint before he could talk.
- Looking at toilets, the toilet flusher is always, ALWAYS on the left side.
- Lefties get about a 4 foot start toward first base in baseball/softball.
- Those lefties like myself that can do most things with both hands, get to brag about being ambidextrous (using both hands with equal ease).
- In ancient Japan, a man could ask for a divorce if he discovered that his wife was left-handed.
- The three candidates who ran in the 1992 U.S. presidential election were all left-handed: Bill Clinton, Ross Perot and George Bush.
- Righties are trained to box with only their right hand, while lefties are trained to box with both hands.

Famous Lefties

Julius Caesar
Tim Allen
Bill Clinton
Babe Ruth
Michelangelo
Pablo Picasso
Leonardo Da Vinci
Sir Isaac Newton
Hellen Keller
George Bush

Oprah Winfrey
Albert Einstein
Larry Fine(Three Stooges)
Aristotle
Raphael
Bob Dylan
Jerry Seinfeld
Whoopie Goldberg
Howie Mandel
Benjamin Franklin

Dick Van Dyke
Sam Adams
Neil Armstrong
Bob Dole
Tiny Tim
Kermit the Frog
Bill Gates
Alexander the Great
Prince Charles
Queen Victoria

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Monon Theatre

Coming Soon
Castaway

All Showings in
Rensselaer Times

FRI & SAT 6:30 & 8:30
SUN 3:30 & 6:30
MON-THURS 6:30

February Holidays

15 Bald Pride Day
16 Kinky Exploration Day,
Presidents Day
21 Chinese Takeout Day
23 Give a Massage Day,
Thinking Day
27 Mardi Gras begins,
International Pancake Day,
Shrove Tuesday
28 Lent begins, Ash Wednesday

Movies Coming to Theaters February 16th

Down to Earth- In this modern remake of *Heaven Can't Wait*, Chris Rock is a black man sent back to earth by an angel into the body of an old, white businessman.

Sweet November- Keanu Reeves is a working man who falls for a quirky neighbor (Charlize Theron) who only keeps relationships for one month before tossing her men aside.

Movies Coming to Theaters February 23rd

Original Sin- Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie steam up the screen in this turn-of-the-century, Cuban-set thriller. Banderas is a rich Cuban tycoon who is left with nothing but murderous revenge on his mind after his American wife (Jolie) swindles his fortune away from him.

3000 Miles to Graceland- Kurt Russell and Kevin Costner co-star as casino-robbing Elvis impersonators in this wild and

Puma Entertainment Quick Picks

— Don Shanahan —

violent road heist movie.

Monkeybone- Combining live-action and animation, a cartoonist (Brendan Fraser) is sucked into the world of his own creation only to have his loopy chimpanzee character take over his body in the real world.

Video/DVD Releases for February 20th

The Watcher- This very exciting serial killer thriller follows burned-out cop James Spader who, after moving from L.A. to Chicago, finds out that he is still the favorite competition of a charming and patient killer (Keanu Reeves) who has followed him to the Windy City.

Beautiful- Minnie Driver plays a small-

town gal who's obsessed with making the local beauty pageant in this directorial debut of actress Sally Field.

Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2- Utterly pointless and no-name-filled sequel to the 1999 surprise smash hit. Instead of the first's raw footage, this one tries to be a special effects movie.

Highlander: Endgame- In a movie franchise where, supposedly, "there can be only one," there has somehow sprouted another out-of-place sequel.

Video/DVD Releases for February 27th

Bedazzled- Brenden Fraser is a geeky computer guy who makes a seven-wish deal with the devil (Elizabeth Hurley) to get the girl and live out his fantasies.

There were 20 of us- all alike.
He pushed them aside and chose me.
He gently caressed the white of my body
with the firm pink tips of his fingers.
He knew he could only have me once.
He gripped me gently as if I were going to break and surveyed me-up, then down.
His look was that of a crazed vulture who hadn't eaten in days.
He'd just found his first corpse.
I was feeble in his immense, sturdy hands, but I knew he wouldn't hurt me.
He needed me.
His moist lips touched the top of me.
I felt heat rise slowly in my body- bottom to top.
With each breath he drew into him, I could sense myself perishing.
It was exhilarating!
I began to feel lighter and lighter.
"You taste good," he exhaled and tossed me to the ground.
The fire went out.
The heat was gone.
I just lay there on the ground and watched him as he burned another just like me-
with the same intensity,
and walked away.

Maura Giles

Angel

I've kissed an Angel.
I've held an Angel's hand.
How did I get so lucky?
How can I keep Her by my side?

Do I keep kissing Her?
Do I never let go of Her hand?
Tell me what to do.
How can I keep this Angel by my side?

I say a prayer, I'm sure She heard me.
She takes my hand, and gives me a kiss.
She closes Her eyes, tells me how She was lucky,
and fades away, never for me to see again.

Me

*This is me,
no more to offer.
The one you see,
no one before, only after.*

*If you want me,
tell me.
If not, tell me today.
Break my heart forever.*

Leander J. Hoover

"Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold -- but so does a hard-boiled egg."

~anonymous

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."

~anonymous

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give -- which is everything."

~anonymous

Unfortunately, it costs him his soul.
The Original Kings of Comedy- Spike Lee directs this mock-documentary following the extremely successful comedy tour party of D.L. Hughley, Cedric the Entertainer, Bernie Mac, and Steve Harvey.

Lost Souls- Winona Ryder is a woman in touch with the supernatural who must convince a young businessman that he will become the devil incarnate's human host body.

CD Releases for February 20th

Henry Rollins: A Rollins in the Wry

Love: Forever Changes

CD Releases for February 27th

Run-D.M.C.: Crown Royal

Dave Matthews Band: Everyday

Pearl Jam: Domestic Bootlegs: First Leg

Duncan Sheik: Phantom Moon

Blessed Union of Souls: The Singles

Silkk the Shocker: My World My Way

Marvin Gaye: What's Goin' On—Deluxe Edition